

Resources for Neighborhoods



A Guide to Resources for the Neighborhoods of College Station



City of College Station



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for the Neighborhoods of College Station

City of College Station
Neighborhood Services Office

1999

The idea for this resource guide was one of several recommendations made by a citizen neighborhood task force. Through a series of meetings we discovered a strong need to improve communication with neighborhoods and citizens. This guide was developed as an information resource to help citizens get involved in making their neighborhoods great places.

We hope that you will find this book helpful. We would also be interested in hearing your comments regarding this document. If you would like to comment or if you discover that any of the information has become out-dated, please contact the Neighborhood Services Office at 764-6262.



Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Services for Neighbors and Neighborhoods.....	6
Recycling and Sanitation Services.....	7
Planning and Development.....	8
Energy Conservation.....	11
Crime and Safety	12
Youth and Seniors.....	15
Parks and Recreation.....	19
Working to Maintain and Improve Neighborhoods.....	21
Improving and Enhancing Neighborhoods.....	22
Neighborhood Maintenance and Repair.....	24
Code Enforcement and Community Enhancement.....	26
Neighbors Helping Neighbors.....	27
Housing Assistance and Social Services	28
Empowering Neighbors and Neighborhoods.....	31
Citizen Participation.....	32

Improving Communication.....	36
Community Education.....	38
Resources and Social Service Agencies in College	
Station/ Bryan.....	40
Index.....	44

Introduction

Welcome to your Neighborhood Resource Guide! This publication has been developed by the Neighborhood Services Office of the City of College Station Development Services Department to be your personal guide to the Services and departments of the City.

The goal of this guide is to serve two purposes:

To be a ***One-Stop Guide*** to the many services of both the City of College Station and other entities that are available to neighbors and neighborhoods.

To ***Empower Citizens*** to create positive change in their neighborhoods by arming them with information necessary to achieve their goals.

This guide is broken up into four different sections that include:

Services for Neighbors and Neighborhoods-

This section is a data base of information and contacts regarding the many services offered by the City of College Station and by other Governmental and Non-Profit agencies in the Brazos Valley. This section explains services regarding recycling, sanitation, planning and zoning, energy conservation, crime and safety, services for youth and seniors, and parks and recreation.

Working to Maintain and Improve

Neighborhoods- This section is designed to inform neighbors of what they can do to improve the physical condition of life in their neighborhood. Are there burned out street lights in your neighborhood? Are old junked cars a problem on your street? This section

explains what YOU can do to fix these problems.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors-

Many services and agencies exist in the Brazos Valley that extend a helping hand to our neighbors when they need one. This section looks at only a few of the services available to area neighbors and neighborhoods. The services focused upon in this section range from emergency food, clothing, and shelter assistance to down payment assistance for first time home buyers.

Empowering Neighbors and Neighborhoods-

Education and community participation empower neighborhood residents to make a positive impact on their neighborhood and community. This section looks at the opportunities for increased education and citizen participation offered by both the City of College Station and the institutions of

higher education in the area. These opportunities range from the City's web site to participation in the Citizen Police Academy to furthering your education at Texas A&M.

In creating this guide, it is the goal of Neighborhood Services to empower neighbors

and neighborhoods to take charge of the situations confronting them. A wide variety of services are in place to assist them with these tasks. Knowing how to utilize these services is half the battle!



Services for Neighbors and Neighborhoods



Do you want to learn how to conserve energy in your home? The City of College Station has you covered. Did you know you can take your family fishing right here in town? Thanks to College Station Parks and Recreation you can.

The citizens of College Station are fortunate to have an amazing variety of services and educational opportunities available to them.

This section contains information about the wide variety of services available to neighbors and neighborhoods from both the City of College Station and other sources.

Among others, this section will discuss services that pertain to ***Crime and Safety***, services for ***Youths and Seniors***, as well as the many ***Parks and Recreation*** services available for the neighborhoods of College Station.

Recycling and Sanitation Services

Recycling:

The Brazos Valley is a beautiful place. Keep it that way! Recycling is a fun and convenient way to keep your neighborhood clean. It is extremely easy to recycle your unwanted goods and refuse in College Station.

College Station Recycles can help you with recycling Newspapers, Aluminum & Steel Food Cans, Glass, and Plastic. The City will give you clear plastic bags to separate your recyclables. Just place these bags out by your curb on the designated day, and we will do the rest. It's that easy. In addition, there is an oil recycling center at the Public Services Center behind the Police Department at 2613 Texas Avenue.

For more details contact City of College Station Public Works at 764-3690.

You can recycle many more items than those which the City of College Station handles. Brazos Beautiful has a list of different drop-off sites throughout College Station and Bryan that will recycle just about anything you want to get rid of. This list is available on their web site (www.brazosbeautiful.org) or you can call them for more information at 776-6227.

Sanitation:

City of College Station Public Works Department collects household waste and bulky/ brush items from your curb. This department also sets aside certain days for household hazardous waste collection. Call them at 764-3690 for more details and collection times/ days.

Planning and Development

Building Permits:

Any new construction and some home improvements require a building permit to ensure compliance with City building codes. Some home improvements, such as fences, do not require a permit. If you or your neighbors are planning some home improvements, City of College Station Development Services Building Division staff can help you determine whether a permit is required for your project. Contact the Building Division at 764-3741.

Home Based Businesses :

The City's Zoning Ordinance regulates the types and impacts of home businesses. In

general, a home business cannot adversely impact surrounding properties or the neighborhood. Home businesses are not allowed to display signs, generate excessive traffic or parking, create any hazards, nuisances, or employ persons other than family members living in that home. Acceptable home businesses may include general office or professional services, sewing, writing or home crafts, telemarketing and computer programming. Prohibited businesses include barber and personal service shops, kennels, schools, private clubs, repair shops, restaurants, medically related services and boarding houses. Childcare businesses are allowed depending on the number of children attending and may require a Conditional Use Permit from the Planning and Zoning Commission. To find out more about allowable home businesses call the Development Services Department at 764-3570. To file a complaint about a home business in your neighborhood, call Community Enhancement at 764-6363.

Deed Restrictions:

Deed Restrictions are private agreements between all property owners in a subdivision. They are intended to control land uses and other activities in the neighborhood. Not all neighborhoods may have enforceable deed restrictions in place. Deed restrictions are enforced by home owners associations. The city cannot enforce deed restrictions. Your neighborhood can amend your deed restrictions or create new ones. To find out more contact your local neighborhood or home-owners association or the Neighborhood Services Office at 764-6262.

Zoning :

The City of College Station uses zoning as a tool to plan and regulate land uses. All property within the City is zoned in a specific category called a zoning district. For example, there is a zoning district called Single Family Residential (coded as R-1). Each

zoning district has a list of uses that are permitted in that district. Only those uses listed are allowed on that property. A property can be rezoned to allow different uses. When a rezoning request is made, it is presented first to the Planning and Zoning Commission and then to the City Council for approval. The City's Comprehensive Plan is used as a guide in determining the appropriate land uses and zoning districts for property.

The Zoning Ordinance also includes regulations for signs, landscaping, parking and other development requirements. The Zoning Ordinance is one chapter in the City's Code of Ordinances. To find out more about zoning call the Development Services Department at 764-3570.

Historic Properties :

The City of College Station does not have any officially designated historic districts or regulations concerning historic structures. However, there are several areas in College Station with historical significance. The historic building plaque program recognizes these areas. Two parts make up this program. The first is a local plaque project, where a home, building, or topic is researched and compiled documentation is presented for approval by the College Station Historic Preservation Committee. (CSHPC) The committee meets monthly, September through May, but applications are accepted anytime. The second part of this program is the participation in the State Historical Marker Program. The CSHPC researches a particular site or event and presents it to the County Historical Commission for preliminary approval. The application and documentation is forwarded to the State Historic Committee who will approve or deny the request. For

more information about this program call 764-3730.



Energy Conservation

The City of College Station offers several different services to help you learn how to conserve energy. These include Home Energy Audits and the Energy Back II Program. These programs will both conserve energy and save you money.

Home Energy Audits:

Home Energy Audits are performed free of charge by the City of College Station Energy Conservation Division. Professional energy consumption evaluations are available to any household or business in College Station. These checks will look at the equipment in your home or business such as major appliances and cooling and heating systems as well as the actual structure of the house itself. For more

information about this service call the Energy Conservation District at 764-3724.

Energy Back II Program:

Energy Back II Program is a rebate program for high-efficiency residential air conditioner and heat pump installations or replacements, and ductwork leakage diagnosis and repair (pilot study). About 42% of all total A/C changeups in the city are certified for an Energy Back II Rebate. More information about this program can be received by contacting your Air Conditioning or Heat Pump Installer or by calling the Energy Conservation Division at 764-3724.

Crime and Safety

The Police and Fire Departments of the City of College Station offer a variety of different programs and services to working together to ensure the safety of our neighborhoods and neighbors.

Reporting Problems:

For both Fire and Police emergencies, dial 911.

For non-emergency problems, call:

C.S.P.D. – 764-3600

C.S.F.D. – 764-3700

Ambulance – 764-3700

Graffiti and Vandalism:

Fortunately, College Station does not have a major graffiti and vandalism problem.

However, if your home or business does fall victim to such a crime, call the C.S.P.D. non-emergency number (764-3600) and an officer will be dispatched to file a criminal mischief report.

Neighborhood Watch Groups:

Neighborhood Watch Groups are a way for neighbors to look out for the safety of their neighborhoods. In order to form a Neighborhood Watch Group, a concerned neighborhood must decide as a whole whether it is something that they want to participate in. Next, they need to schedule a visit by an officer to explain the requirements, including a 50% participation rate. Contact College Station Police Crime Prevention at 764-3611 for more information.

H.E.A.T. - Help End Auto Theft :

This is a statewide program that uses stickers marking participating automobiles to ensure that only those who should be driving them are. Cars marked with H.E.A.T. stickers will be stopped by police officers to identify the driver between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. and 24 hours per day at the Mexican Border. Contact C.S.P.D. at 764-3611 for details about the program.

Community Involved Traffic Enforcement:

Citizens wishing to report a traffic concern in their neighborhood or anywhere in College Station may do so by one of two methods:

- They may call the Traffic Division Directly at 764-3635.
- They can submit the problem electronically by accessing C.S.P.D.'s Web site at <http://www.cstx.gov/cspd/addcite.htm>

Dark House Program:

If you are going out of town and cannot find a neighbor to watch your house, the College Station Police Department offers the Dark House Program. With this program, an officer conducts a day time check of your house as time allows. This program is effective, but not as effective as having a close neighbor watch your house. For information about this program and tips to keep your home safe when you leave town, contact C.S.P.D. at 764-3611.

Fire Safety Education:

Fire Safety Education is provided by the Public Education Officer of the College Station Fire Department. The P.E.O. offers Fire Safety Classes to:

- All Elementary School Classes
- By demand to local health care facilities, hotels and motels, commercial businesses, and service organizations

The P.E.O. also offers "Career Awareness" and

"Life as a Firefighter" Classes to interested groups as well as "Fire Safety for Seniors" and "Emergency Vehicle Awareness" to Driver's Education Students in the local School System. For more information contact College Station Fire Department at 764-3705.

Animals that have been captured are taken to the Brazos Animal Shelter, located at 2207 Finfeather in Bryan. Their phone number is 775-5755.

Animal Control:

Services are provided for the neighborhoods of College Station by the City. To report problem animals or animals that need to be captured, call 764-3600.



Youth and Seniors

The Exit Teen Center:

The Exit Teen Center located at 1600 Rock Prairie Road is operated by the College Station Parks and Recreation Department to give the youth of College Station's neighborhoods a place of their own. A variety of recreational services are provided for teens at the center. The Exit will include a club with high-tech lighting and sound systems, a big-screen TV, pool tables, foosball tables, a computer lab, and a huge deck. Recreational activities such as Rock Climbing, Paintball, Taekwondo, and Kickboxing are also offered at the center. For more information contact Parks and Recreation at 764-3773.

Youth Sports:

A variety of different youth sports leagues are available from College Station Parks and Recreation Department. These include Baseball, Basketball, Flag Football, Girls' Softball Leagues, and participation in the National Junior Tennis League, as well as several others. For more information or registration details call 764-3773.

Youth Enrichment Services

A variety of services are provided for youths of all ages by College Station Parks and Recreation. These services include:

- ***Kids Klub*** is offered by College Station Parks and Recreation to provide a quality after school recreational and enrichment program for kindergarten through 6th grade students. The program is offered for a small fee from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at all C.S.I.S.D. elementary schools.

- ***Explorer Post 1033*** which teaches disaster preparedness to youth who have completed the eighth grade and are 14-20 years old.
- ***The Boys & Girls Club of the Brazos Valley*** offers programming to help youth of all backgrounds, with special concerns for those from disadvantaged circumstances, to develop the qualities needed to become responsible citizens and leaders. Services are provided at the Lincoln Recreational Center M-F from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM for a nominal fee.
- ***College Station Teen Court*** -If your child is between the ages of 12 and 19 and is still in secondary school full time, he or she is eligible to become a volunteer worker or a defendant in Teen Court. It is a court of peer judgement and sentencing for first time offenders who want a second chance to keep their record clean and gain a valuable education in the workings of the

criminal justice system. For more information call 764-3499.

- ***College Station Teen Advisory Board*** is designed to empower the College Station teens as decision makers and creators of their own programs. The teen board works with City Staff and officials to create



better programming and opportunities for the youth of College Station. 52 College Station Teens are elected each April to serve on TAB for one year.

These are just a few of the enrichment services offered for the youths of College

Station. For more information about these or other services call 764-3773.

College Station Independent School District:

C.S.I.S.D. offers quality public education from grades K-12 at nine elementary, middle, and high school campuses in neighborhoods throughout College Station. To learn more about C.S.I.S.D. services and how to enroll your child, visit the C.S.I.S.D. web site at www.collegestation.isd.tenet.edu or call 764-5400.

Bryan - College Station Library System:

There are public library branches in both Bryan and College Station as well as the Carnegie Center of Brazos Valley History in Downtown Bryan. Library cards are free to any permanent resident of Brazos County and can be used to view or borrow books, audiocassettes, magazines, videos, framed art prints, and sculpture. In addition to these

collections, the library offers several services for youth including Storytime for ages 3-5 and Holiday Craft Time Presentations for all ages. For more information about the library and its services, visit their website at www.bcslibrary.org or call the College Station Branch at 764-3416.

Senior Services:

College Station Parks and Recreation Department offers several different services for the Senior Citizens of College Station. For more information about any of these, call 764-3773. A few of these include:

- ***The Senior Advisory Council*** meets at the Teen Center the last Monday of every month at 10:00 am to discuss programs and activities for seniors. Citizens are welcome to visit these meetings.
- ***Xtra Education*** offers classes for seniors as well as all other neighbors of College

Station at the teen center. A brochure and schedule of classes can be obtained on the City of College Station web site at www.cstx.gov by looking at the College Station Parks and Recreation section.

- ***Senior Hot Meal Program*** provides a nutritious meal to citizens 60 years or older Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 P.M. at the Lincoln Center. Meals are \$.75 per day but participants are allowed to eat regardless of whether or not they are able to pay.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Facilities:

Facilities are located in many neighborhoods throughout College Station. These facilities include:

- ***Shelters***
- ***Picnic Facilities***
- ***Playgrounds***
- ***Ponds***
- ***Jogging Trails***
- ***Fitness Courts***
- ***Basketball Courts***
- ***Tennis Courts***
- ***Baseball/Softball Facilities***
- ***Swimming Pools***

All of these facilities are open to the public and many of them can be rented for private functions or parties. A complete listing of facilities and locations can be found on the City of College Station web site: www.cstx.gov and looking under Parks and Recreation. For more information about these facilities and how to rent them, call 764-3773.

Lincoln Recreation Center :

This is a community center operated by College Station Parks and Recreation Department located at 1000 Eleanor, just north of Holleman between Welsh and Wellborn. The center is host to a variety of programs including:

- ***Boys and Girls Club of the Brazos Valley***
- ***Senior Hot Meal Program***
- ***African American History Program***
- ***Kwanzaa Celebration***
- ***Juneteenth Celebration***

- ***Musical Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.***
- ***Linking at Lincoln Computer Education Program***

For more information about the facilities at Lincoln Center or any of the Center's programs, call 764-3779.

Adult Sports :

A variety of sports leagues are available for College Station neighbors over 16 years of age. Among others, these include;

- ***Full Court Basketball Leagues***
- ***Flag Football Leagues***
- ***Softball Leagues***
- ***Volleyball Leagues***
- ***Running Events.***

For more information about these programs contact College Station Parks and Recreation at 764-3773.



Working to Maintain and Improve Neighborhoods



The neighborhoods of College Station are beautiful and are great places to live. However, maintaining this is not possible without the help of you and your neighbors.

This section is designed to inform neighbors about what they can do to improve the physical condition of life in their neighborhood. Are there burned out street lights in your neighborhood? Are old junked cars a problem on your street? This section explains what **YOU** can do to fix these problems.

This section includes information pertaining to ***Improving and Enhancing Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Maintenance and Repairs, and Code Enforcement/ Community Enhancement.***

Improving and Enhancing Neighborhoods

Parks and Recreation Facilities:

College Station has a great set of parks throughout the city. City of College Station Parks and Recreation Department maintains all of these facilities. If something needs to be repaired or improved in your neighborhood park contact Parks and Recreation at 764-3773.

Capital Improvements:

Prior to the implementation of a new series of capital improvements, a Capital Improvements

Program Committee is appointed by the City Council. This committee reviews all of the needs and requests for improvements. Opportunities for neighborhood participation in the capital improvements process occur when the committee is appointed, when the committee meets, or when the project list is proposed to council.

Neighborhood Services:

This office within City of College Station Development Services links the resources of the City with the wants and needs of the city's individual neighbors and neighborhoods. This department helps to bring improvements to neighborhoods and organize neighbors into Neighborhood Associations. In addition to this Resource Guide, Neighborhood Services links neighborhoods with the city through frequent neighborhood meetings and the recently published "Taking Action- A Manual for Neighborhood Associations." Neighborhood Services has just developed a

website, which makes it even easier for the neighbors and neighborhoods of College Station to access these services. For more information about the services provided by Neighborhood Services call 764-6262. The website is [//devservices.ci.collegestation.tx.us/neighborhood](http://devservices.ci.collegestation.tx.us/neighborhood)

Neighborhood Gateway Grants:

The City of College Station is committed to developing attractive gateways into the community as a whole and will work diligently with citizens interested in developing gateways into their neighborhoods or subdivisions. This program serves to better enhance the aesthetic value of our community and strengthen its natural character while supporting a strong desire by the City to utilize citizen participation in making College Station a better place to live. The City of College Station, with money from the 1995 Bond Election, will provide dollar for dollar grants of up to \$7,500 to neighborhoods and

subdivisions for the development of their gateway. For more information about this program call The Development Services Department at 764-3570.

Organizing Neighborhood Projects:

These can provide opportunities for neighbors to work together and continue to stay active. They also serve to build the credibility of neighborhood associations. Neighborhood projects can range from Neighborhood Cleanups to Babysitting Exchanges and Safety Education. More information about organizing and implementing neighborhood projects can be found in the "Taking Action" Manual for Neighborhood Associations produced by Neighborhood Services. For more information or to receive a copy of the manual call 764-6262.

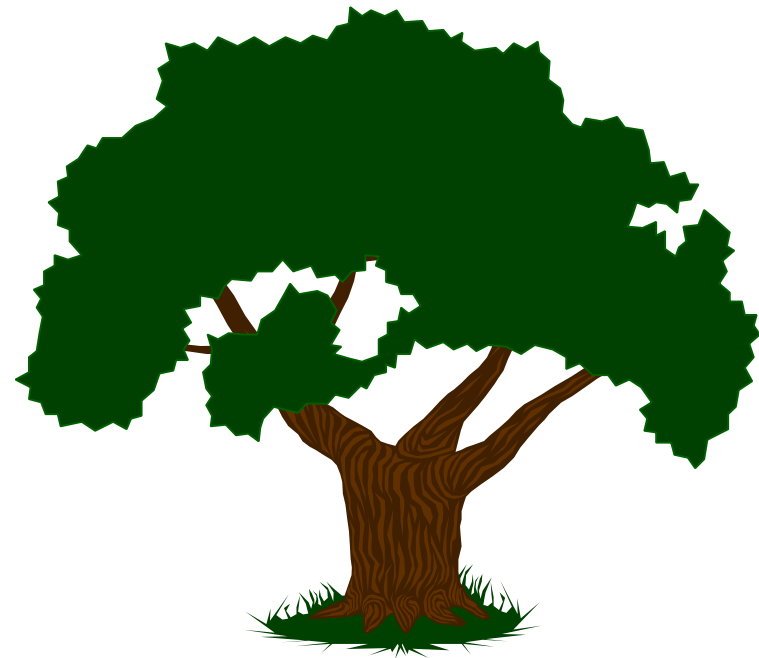
Neighborhood Maintenance and Repair

Street and Sidewalk Repair:

This is handled by the Street Maintenance Division of the City of College Station Public Works Department. This division is responsible for rehab of residential streets, sealcoating streets to protect their surface, repairing potholes, crack sealing, failure repair, and street sweeping. If there is a street or sidewalk maintenance problem in your neighborhood, or you have questions about this division call 764-3692.

Drainage Maintenance:

This is the responsibility of the Drainage Division of the Public Works Department. This division maintains the drainage ways through a mowing program, a herbicide program, and creek clearing. If you have a question about drainage maintenance or would like to report a flooding problem call 764-3692



Streetlight Maintenance and Installation:

These tasks are the responsibility of the Electrical Transmission and Distribution division of the College Station Public Utilities. If there are problems with lights or you feel that there are too few streetlights in your neighborhood contact Pubic Utilities at 764-3660.

Traffic Signs and Signals :

This division of the Public Works Department is responsible for the installation and maintenance of traffic signs and pavement markings. The Traffic Division is responsible for the repair and maintenance of traffic signals. If there is a stop sign down, street sign missing, or a signal malfunction in your neighborhood call the Traffic Division at 764-3692.

Water Distribution :

This task is the responsibility of College Station Public Works. Tasks of the Water Distribution Division include emergency and scheduled maintenance and construction of the water distribution system, which includes service connection, elevated storage facilities, and over 200 miles of distribution lines. If there are problems with the delivery of water in your home or neighborhood, call 764-3638 or 764-3660.

Park Maintenance and Improvement:

This is the responsibility of City of College Station Parks and Recreation. If there are problems with a park in your neighborhood, contact this department at 764-3773.

Code Enforcement and Community Enhancement

The Code Enforcement Action Center:

The residents of College Station's neighborhoods need to be aware of the City's codes. This is because it is ultimately up to neighbors to maintain the appearance and quality of life in their neighborhoods. This office was established by the City of College Station to handle every kind of inquiry, complaint, or problem relating to city

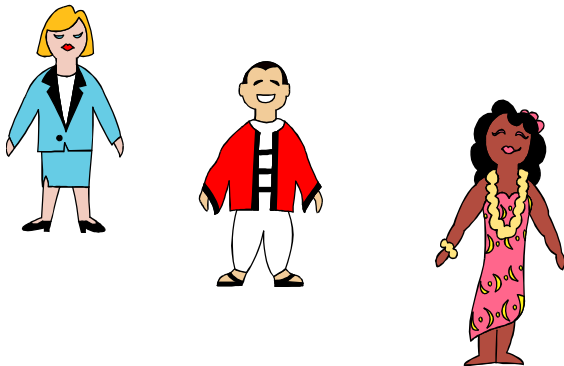


ordinance and code enforcement. By calling 764-MEND (6363) the neighbors of College Station can ask questions about the codes or report code violations.

Examples of the type of Code Enforcement issues and problems that can be reported to 764-MEND include:

- **Junked/ Abandoned Vehicles**
- **Vehicles Parked in Yards**
- **Overloaded Trash Containers**
- **Weeds/ Grass**
- **Illegal Handbills**
- **Theft of Sanitation Service**
- **Overcrowded Residences**
- **Scavenging**
- **Prohibited Waste**
Illegal Dumping

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Many services and agencies exist in the Brazos Valley that extend a helping hand to our neighbors when they need one. This section looks at only a few of the services available to area neighbors and neighborhoods. The services featured in this section deal primarily with improving the physical environment of College Station's neighborhoods.

However, a wide range of different social service agencies exist not only in College Station but throughout the Brazos Valley. These services range from emergency food, clothing, and shelter assistance to help with overcoming an addiction. This section of your Neighborhood Resource Guide briefly explains how neighbors can receive more information about these services and agencies. There is also a list of agencies in the Neighborhood Resources section at the back of this guide.

Housing Assistance & Social Services

Down Payment Assistance Program:

This is a program established by the City of College Station office of Community Development to assist moderate-income first-time homebuyers in achieving their dreams of home-ownership. The program serves neighbors that have a gross income of less than 80% of the Bryan-College Station area adjusted median income. This program will loan applicants a sum equal to up to 10% of the value of a home they wish to purchase as long as the value of the home is less than \$73,281. This loan is forgiven completely after five years of living in and maintaining the home. For more information contact Community Development at 764-3778.



Rehabilitation Program:

Grants and low interest loans are available to make essential repairs to your home. The College Station Community Development Office offers grants and low-cost loans to low income homeowners in College Station.

Repairs Might Include:

- ***Replace Roofs***

- ***Replacing/ Repair of Windows and Doors***
- ***Weatherization, i.e. Insulation***
- ***Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement***
- ***Electrical Repair or Replacement***
- ***Painting***
- ***Plumbing***
- ***Handicapped Installations***
- ***Demolition and Replacement of Existing Home***
- ***Other items affecting the health and safety of residents or violating city ordinances***

For more information about the Home Rehabilitation Program contact Community Development at 764-3778.

Rental Rehabilitation Program:

Matching Funds are available from College Station Community Development to encourage owners of rental properties to renovate and

upgrade the properties. These funds are dependent upon the property owner guaranteeing to maintain the property and marketing the home to low and moderate income families. For more information about this program call Community Development at 764-3778

Commercial Rehabilitation Program:

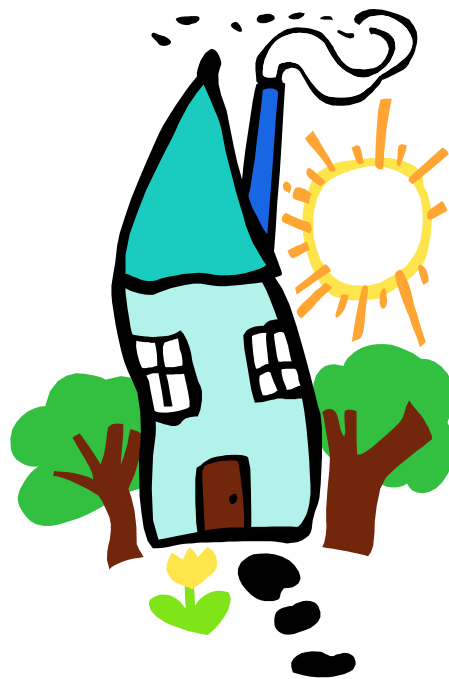
This program consists of the Facade Improvement Program, through which College Station Community Development offers matching funds to Businesses and Property Owners in certain areas to repair and improve the facades of their buildings.

The goal of this program is to restore and preserve the historical integrity and character of targeted areas and blighted commercial structures, and to maintain or increase the economic vitality of these properties.

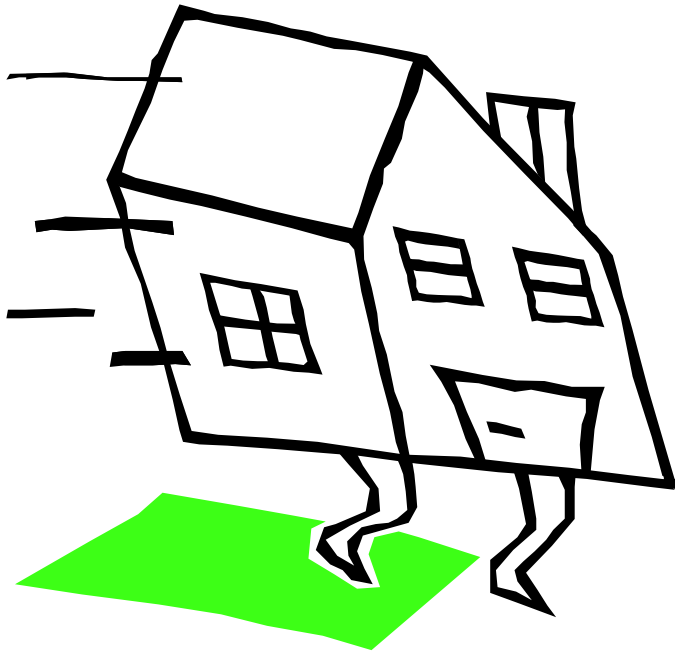
For more information about this program call
Community Development at 764-3778.

Social Services:

Bryan/ College Station as well as the entire Brazos Valley is fortunate to have an enormous array of different social service agencies providing many different services. The Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse has produced "The Brazos Valley Who-To-Call Reference Book." This publication is a one-stop guide to nearly all of the numerous social service agencies in the area. You can receive this reference by calling the Council at 776-7070 or by picking one up from the Council's office at 1713 Broadmoor Ste. 200 in Bryan.



Empowering Neighbors and Neighborhoods



Education and community participation empower neighborhood residents to make a positive impact on their neighborhood and community. *This section looks at the opportunities for increased education and citizen participation offered by both the City of College Station and the institutions of higher education in the area.* These opportunities range from the City's web site to participation in the Citizen Police Academy to furthering your education at Texas A&M.

This section contains information pertaining to ***Citizen Participation*** in City of College Station Government as well as methods that the City has developed to ***improve communication between local government and the neighbors and neighborhoods of College Station.*** In addition, this section will look at the many ***educational opportunities*** available in this community.

Citizen Participation

Neighborhood Associations:

Neighborhood Associations are an excellent method to insure that the needs and desires of your neighborhood are heard by the City of College Station. Many of College Station's neighborhoods already have Neighborhood or Homeowners' Associations in place. However, not all neighborhoods have one yet. College Station Neighborhood Services Office offers a multitude of resources for neighbors who are interested in starting an association in their neighborhood. These include the recently published "Taking Action- A Manual for Neighborhood Associations" guide. For more information about creating a neighborhood association where one does not currently exist, call Neighborhood Services at 764-6262 or look on the office's website to

find your association.
(//devservices.ci.college-
station.tx.us/neighborhood)

City Council and Other Citizen Meetings:

Attending City Council meetings and becoming involved with Citizen Committees are great ways to improve life in your neighborhood. Incorporated in 1938, College Station is a home-rule city and operates under the council manager form of government. The mayor and six council members are elected at large by place, in city-wide elections; terms of office run for two years and are staggered. The City Council meets on the 2nd and usually the 4th Thursday at 6 p.m. with a workshop meeting held at 3 p.m. on those Thursdays. Council Meetings are held at the City Hall and are open to the public.

Citizen Committees :

Neighbors can also get involved with Citizen Committees. The following Citizen Committees are appointed by City Council. For information on how to become a member call 764-3541. These committees include:

- ***Cemetery Committee***
- ***Community Appearance Committee***
- ***Electrical Examining Board***
- ***Historic Preservation Committee***
- ***Parks and Recreation Board***
- ***Joint Relief Funding Review Committee***
- ***Planning and Zoning Commission***
- ***Zoning Board of Adjustments***
- ***Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals***

School Board Meetings

Do you want to become more involved in the education of your child or the children in your neighborhood? Attending C.S.I.S.D. School

Board Meetings will keep you abreast of the issues and problems facing your neighborhood schools. School Board Meetings are open to the public and are held the 3rd Monday of every month at the C.S.I.S.D. Administration Building in the Board Room. This is located at 1812 Welsh. For meeting times or more information call 764-5400.

C.S.I.S.D. VIPS Program:

The Volunteers in Public Schools Program is a great way to become more involved in neighborhood schools. Volunteers have the opportunity to make an impact in a variety of different ways within each school. For more information call or visit the Main Office at the school at which you wish to volunteer. Fill out an application and the individual school will take it from there.

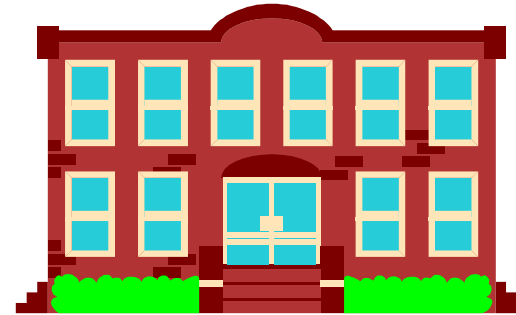
C.S.P.D. Volunteer Program:

This program consists of volunteers from the local community who wish to contribute to the community by donating a portion of their time to the Police Department. Volunteers assist in various ways, including answering the phones, filing, typing, and other clerical duties. Volunteers report to the commander or supervisor of the unit, section, or division which they are assigned for purposes of those tasks being performed, and the program is coordinated by the personnel services division commander. For more information about this program call 764-3605.

Citizen University:

This 10 week free course will help you to understand the many facets of your city government. Through a better understanding you will be able to become a more proactive leader in solving community and neighborhood problems. Twenty-four new participants are

accepted into the program each year. Watch for a flyer and application form in your November utility statement. Class begins in February of each year and meets each week in the evening for three hours, ending in April. For more information call 764-3499.



Municipal Volunteer Program:

This program gives neighbors an opportunity to volunteer with the City of College Station. There are many reasons why people volunteer with the City. Often they want to maintain or develop new job skills, return something to the

community, explore new career paths, become acquainted with City government, or basically help someone else. Departments within the City that have a regular need for volunteers include:

- ***City Council Office***
- ***Fire Department***
- ***Human Resources***
- ***Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS)***
- ***Parks and Recreation***
- ***Police Department***
- ***Public Works***
- ***Teen Court***

For more information about the Municipal Volunteer Program or to volunteer, call the Volunteer Coordinator Office at 764-6372.

Citizen Police Academy:

Citizen Police Academy is a 12 week program put on by C.S.P.D. in which the citizens of College Station come to the police department one evening a week and learn about a different aspect of police work each night. Guest instructors teach along side C.S.P.D. officers . There are usually two academies held per year. They are free of charge and open to anyone 18 years of age and older. Applications may be picked up at the front window of the College Station Police Department or call 764-3573 for more information.

Improving Communication

The City of College Station maintains several different lines of communication between local government and the neighborhoods of College Station.

These include:

- ***City of College Station Web Site*** - www.ci.college-station.tx.us - This site has detailed links to every part of City government. The site also includes various response forms about problems in the city as well as links to other area governmental and educational agencies. If you cannot access it off of this web site it probably doesn't exist.
- ***Cable Access Channel 19*** - The City of College Station airs many items on the local public access channel. An example of these

are the agendas from recent city council meetings which are posted on the channel.

- ***City Calendar*** - Each year College Station Parks and Recreation Department produces a beautiful wall calendar that is free of charge. This calendar very comprehensively lists important dates and activities going on in College Station and elsewhere. For more information about receiving a calendar, call Parks and Recreation at 764-3773
- ***Your Key to the City Citizens' Handbook*** is produced regularly by the City to keep residents informed of the various services and departments of the City of College Station. For more information about the guide call City of College Station information at 764-3500
- ***College Station Annual Report*** is produced yearly by the City of College Station. This colorful report not only presents the changes made in our community over the

past year but also offers a financial statement for your City Government.

The Neighborhood Services Office also produces several communications tools to greater link the office with the neighborhoods it serves. Call them at 764-3570.

These include:

- ***Neighborhood Services Web Site*** - [//devservices.ci.college-station.tx.us/neighborhood](http://devservices.ci.college-station.tx.us/neighborhood) This web site is currently being developed to keep the neighborhoods of College Station abreast of events and meetings in the Neighborhood Planning initiative of this office.
- ***Neighborhood News*** - This newsletter is put out by Neighborhood Services and distributed to neighborhood representatives of registered neighborhood associations to inform neighbors of upcoming events and meetings put on by this office.

Community Education

Xtra Education:

College Station Parks and Recreation Department and C.S.I.S.D. have joined together to offer a new recreational learning experience for the entire community. Xtra Education, a new leisure learning adventure has over 80 exciting classes to offer. These classes will be offered at various times during the evening hours, Monday through Thursday with some classes offered on Saturday. Call 764-3486 or 764-3773 for more information or to request a copy of the Xtra Education brochure to be mailed to you.

Athletic Lessons:

The City of College Station Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide array of different Athletic Lessons available for both adults and children. These include tennis and swimming as well as other sports for more details or registration information contact Parks and Recreation at 764-3773.



Library System Locations and Services:

There are public library branches in both Bryan and College Station as well as the Carnegie Center of Brazos Valley History in Downtown Bryan. Library cards are free to any permanent resident of Brazos County and can be used to view or even borrow books, audiocassettes, magazines, videos, framed art prints, and sculpture. In addition to these collections, the library offers several services for youth including Storytime for ages 3-5 and Holiday Craft Time Presentations for all ages. For more information about the library and its services, visit their website at www.bcslibrary.org or call the College Station Branch at 764-3416.

Blinn College:

Blinn College nearby in Bryan offers a vast array of educational options to the neighbors of College Station. Blinn is a two-year college offering both Associates Degrees and

transfer courses for those intending to complete their education at a senior institution. A wide range of subjects and majors are offered at Blinn. A student also has the option of taking classes for credit towards a degree or just taking them for enrichment. Even if you already have a degree there may be something you are interested in learning more about at Blinn. For more information look on their web site (www.blinncol.edu) or call 821-0200.

Texas A&M University:

An even greater array of educational options are available at Texas A&M University. TAMU is a four-year senior college with graduate and Ph.d. level programs. The main mission of A&M is to serve students who intend on receiving a Bachelors or advanced degree. However, some opportunities for non-credit and enrichment classes do exist. For more information visit www.tamu.edu or call Undergraduate Admissions Counseling at 845-3741.

Resources and Social Service Agencies in College Station/ Bryan

Most of this resource guide has focused on serviced provided by the City of College Station for it's neighbors. However, the Brazos Valley is very fortunate to have a wide variety of different social service agencies. The following is an index of these agencies with contact information.

Community and Crisis Intervention Services

- **Fire- Police- Ambulance** – 911
- **AIDS Hotline** – 260-2437
- **Alcoholics Anonymous** – 361-7976
- **Brazos County Rape Crisis Center Inc.-** 268-7273
- **Brazos County Community Council** (Utility crisis situations, Brazos Valley Information Center) – 823-5226
- **Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse-** 776-7070
- **College Station Schools** (Assistance with children's educational concerns)- 764-5400
- **Elder Aid-** 779-7250
- **Family Outreach Program** (One-on-one work with people who are at risk for abuse or neglect-cannot be a TDPRS open case.) – 260-2273

- **Family Violence Unit- Brazos Valley Courthouse** (Provides legal counseling to victims of domestic/ family violence)- 361-4300
- **MADD Brazos Valley** (Support/advocacy for victims of drunk driving) – 823-7008
- **Mental Health/ Mental Retardation Authority** (MHMR emergency assessments for families experiencing a psychiatric crisis) – 822 6467
- **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Hotline** – 800-843-5678
- **National Runaway Hotline** – 800 -231-6946
- **Project Unity** (Support/advocacy for health, education, and human services)- 821-5104
- **Scotty's House** (Child advocacy center for medical and legal assistance in abuse cases)- 775-4695
- **Straight Talk Hotline** (Suicide and other crisis intervention) – 775-8255
- **Texas A&M Counseling Helpline** – 845-2700
- **Texas Department of Protective Services- 776-3637**
Texas Hotline (24 hr child abuse reporting)- 800-252-5400
Child Abuse Hotline – 800-422-4453
Elderly Abuse – 776-1510
- **Texas Runaway Hotline** – 800-392-3352
- **Twin City Mission:**
The Bridge (Emergency shelter for men, women, families) – 822-7511
Phoebe's Home (Center for victims of domestic violence) – 775-5355

Sheltering Arms – Star (24 hr. crisis intervention for children and families: runaway shelter)

- **Youth Crisis Hotline** – 800-448-4663

Free or Low Cost Medical Assistance

- **Brazos County Health Dept.** – 361-4440
- **BVCAA/ Family Health** – 268-5555
- **Department of Human Services**
(Medicaid)- 776-1510
- **Good Samaritan Pregnancy Services** – 846-2909
- **Hazardous Materials** – 800-634-1598
- **Health for All Clinic** – 823-1466

- **Hope Pregnancy Centers** – 846-1097
- **Hospice** – 776-0793
- **Junction 505** – 846-3670
- **Maternal and Child Health Clinic** (Pre Natal Clinic) – 260-1597
- **Planned Parenthood** – 846-1744
- **Poison Control** – 800-764-7661

Free or Low Cost Legal Assistance

- **Brazos County Legal Aid** – 775-5724
- **Crime Victims Compensation and Reimbursement** – 361-4320

- **Family Violence Legal Line** - 800-374-4673
- **Gulf Coast Legal Fund** - 775-5050
- **Juvenile Services** - 823-3544
- **Legal Hotline for Texas Women** - 800-777-3247
- **Pardons and Paroles** - 800-848-4284
- **Justice for All** - 713-935-9300
- **Brazos Valley Interfaith Outreach** - 694-9423
- **Church Food Pantry** - 822-2660
- **Food Stamps** - 776-1510
- **Salvation Army** - 775-4541
- **St. Vincent DePaul** - 775-2273
- **Twin City Mission** - 822-7511

Food/ Clothing/ Shelter Assistance

- **American Red Cross** - 776-8279
- **Brazos Valley Council of Governments**
(HUD Housing, Indigent Health Care) - 775-4244



Index

A

Animal Control – 14
Athletic Lessons – 38

B

Blinn College – 39
Boys and Girls Club of the Brazos Valley – 16
Building Permits – 8

C

Cable Access Channel 19 – 36
Capital Improvements – 22
Citizen Committees – 33
Citizen Police Academy – 35
Citizen Participation – 32
Citizen University – 34

City Calendar – 36
City Council and Other Citizen Meetings – 32
Code Enforcement Action Center – 26
Code Enforcement and Community
Enhancement – 26
Community Education – 38
Community Involved Traffic Enforcement – 13
Commercial Rehabilitation Program – 29
Contents – 1
Crime and Safety – 12
Crisis Intervention Services – 40
C.S.P.D. Volunteer Program – 34

D

Dark House Program – 13
Deed Restrictions – 9
Down Payment Assistance Program – 28
Drainage Maintenance – 24

E

Empowering Neighbors and Neighborhoods – 31
Energy Conservation – 11
Energy Back II Program – 11
Exit Teen Center – 15
Explorer Post 1033 – 16

F

Fire Safety Education – 13
Food, Shelter, Clothing Assistance – 43

G

Graffiti and Vandalism – 12

H

H.E.A.T. – 13
Historic Properties – 10
Home-Based Businesses – 8
Home Energy Audits – 11
Housing Assistance and Social Services – 28

I

Improving and Enhancing Neighborhoods – 22
Improving Communication – 36
Improvements – Parks and Recreation – 22, 25
Introduction – 3

J-K

Kids Klub – 15

L

Legal Assistance, Free or Low Cost – 42
Library System, Bryan/ College Station – 17, 39
Lincoln Recreation Center – 19

M

Medical Assistance, Free or Low Cost – 42
Municipal Volunteer Program – 34

N

Neighborhood Associations – 32
Neighborhood Gateway Grants – 23
Neighborhood Maintenance & Repair – 24
Neighborhood News – 37
Neighborhood Services – 22
Neighborhood Services Office – 37
Neighborhood Watch Groups – 12
Neighbors Helping Neighbors – 27

O

Organizing Neighborhood Projects – 23

P-Q

Parks and Facilities – 19
Parks and Recreation – 19
Planning and Development – 8

R

Recycling – 7
Rehabilitation Program, Housing – 28
Rental Rehabilitation Program – 29
Reporting Crimes, Etc. – 12

S

Sanitation – 7
School Board Meetings – 33
School District, College Station
Independent – 17
Senior Advisory Council – 17
Senior Hot Meal Program – 18
Senior Services – 17
Services for Neighbors and Neighborhoods – 6
Social Service Agencies in B/CS – 40
Social Services – 30
Sports, Adult – 20
Sports, Youth – 15
Streetlight and Sidewalk Repair – 24

Streetlight Maintenance and Installation – 25

T

Teen Advisory Board, College Station – 16
Teen Court, College Station – 16
Texas A&M University – 39
Traffic Signs and Signals – 25

U-V

V.I.P.S. Program, C.S.I.S.D. – 33

W

Water Distribution – 25
Website, City of College Station – 36
Website, Neighborhood Services – 37
Working to Maintain and Improve
Neighborhoods – 21

X-Y-Z

X-tra Education – 17, 38
Youth and Seniors – 15
Youth Enrichment Services – 15
Zoning – 9

